

REMARKS

Claims 37-45 and 49-52 are pending. Claim 37 has been amended. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original and other claims in this and any other application.

Claims 37, 40, and 42-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the Office Action asserts, “there is not a disclosure that would particularly point that the ‘second terminal’ is connected to the ‘first terminal’.” The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner’s attention to FIGs. 1(a), 1(b), and 2 of the pending application. All three figures depict a first probe pad 11 connected to a second probe pad 17 via a diode or other temporarily isolation device 19. In addition, the specification provides “temporary isolation device 19, e.g., diode, is provided on each die 5 between each probe pad 17 and probe pad 11.” (Paragraph [0027]). A probe pad is a kind of terminal. Indeed, the Office Action itself equates pads and terminals in its rejection of claim 37 under § 102(e), which is addressed below. More specifically, the Office Action equates the “second terminal” recited by claim 37 with the “pad” 106 of Fenner’s FIG. 5. (Page 3). Therefore the disclosure, both in the figures and the text of the specification, does particularly point out that the second terminal is connected to the first terminal. For at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 37, 40, and 40-42 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 37-45 and 49-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fenner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,548,826) (“Fenner”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 37 recites a “method of testing a plurality of dies fabricated on a wafer.” The method comprises, “connecting a first terminal of each of said plurality of dies to a common signal conductor; connecting a second terminal of each of said plurality of dies to the first terminal on each respective die through a diode on each respective die which allows said second terminal to receive a

signal from said common signal conductor during a first test procedure; and reverse biasing the diode on at least some of said dies during a second test procedure to isolate said second terminal of said at least some of said dies from said common signal conductor during said second test procedure.”

Fenner, by contrast, teaches placing a diode 210 between a terminal 206 on a die and a common signal conductor 202 not on the die. (Fenner, FIG. 4). Fenner does not teach or suggest “connecting a second terminal of each of said plurality of dies to the first terminal on each respective die through a diode on each respective die which allows said second terminal to receive a signal from said common signal conductor during a first test procedure....”

In support of its § 102(e) rejection, the Office Action improperly combines elements of two incompatible and mutually-exclusive embodiments of the Fenner disclosure. More specifically, the Office Action combines “first terminal 106” and “second terminal 106” of the embodiment illustrated by Fenner’s FIG. 5 with the “diode 210” of the embodiment illustrated by Fenner’s FIG. 4. (Page 3). Fenner does not teach combining the elements in the manner recited by the Office Action, making rejection under § 102 improper. Moreover, the embodiment of FIG. 5 is incompatible with and in fact teaches away from the alleged combination because Fenner teaches using the test circuit 300 of FIG. 5 in lieu of the diode 210 of FIG. 4. A die comprising a test circuit 300 would not need a diode to selectively isolate circuits on the die because the test circuit 300 is itself capable of electrically cycling circuits on the die. (Fenner, Column 5, Lines 44-67).

In addition, the Office Action incorrectly “takes the position that Fenner does teach that the diode is electrically connected to the die, as a result, would represent that the diode is in fact *on* (intentionally emphasized) the die by electrical connection.” (Page 6). “In construing a claim, claim terms are given their ordinary and accustomed meaning unless examination of the specification, prosecution history, and other claims indicates that the inventor intended otherwise.” *Nike, Inc. v. Wolverine World Wide, Inc.*, 43 F.3d 644, 646 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Applicants respectfully suggest that, according to its ordinary meaning, “electrically connected to” does not mean “on,” as asserted by the Office Action. For example, a light switch on a wall might be

“electrically connected to” a light fixture on the ceiling. However, one would not ordinarily say the light switch is “on” the light fixture. Therefore, Fenner does not teach or suggest, “a diode on each respective die,” as recited in claim 37. For at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 37 should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claims 40, and 42-44 depend from claim 37 and are allowable for at least the reason stated above with respect to claim 37 and on their own merits. Therefore, the rejections of claims 40, and 42-44 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Independent claims 38 and 45 recite similar limitations as claim 37 and are allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 37 and on their own merits. Therefore, the rejection of claims 38 and 45 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 39 and 41 depend from claim 38 and are allowable for at least the reason stated above with respect to claim 38 and on their own merits. Therefore, the rejections of claims 39 and 41 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 49-52 depend from claim 45 and are allowable for at least the reason stated above with respect to claim 45 and on their own merits. Therefore, the rejections of claims 49-52 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending application is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #41,198

Thomas J. D'Amico - Registration No.: 28,371
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1825 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403
(202) 420-2200
Attorney for Applicant